

STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

Downy Rose Myrtle

Maui County Priority Pest for Maui, Lanai, and Molokai:

Downy rose myrtle (*Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*) is an attractive ornamental tree that has escaped the garden and is growing out of control on Kauai, Oahu, and Hawaii. It is not currently known to be in Maui County.

Identification

Height- usually 1.8 m (6 ft), though can grow much taller

Flower- Rose-pink; 2.5 cm (1 in) across

Fruit- Bluish-purple berry

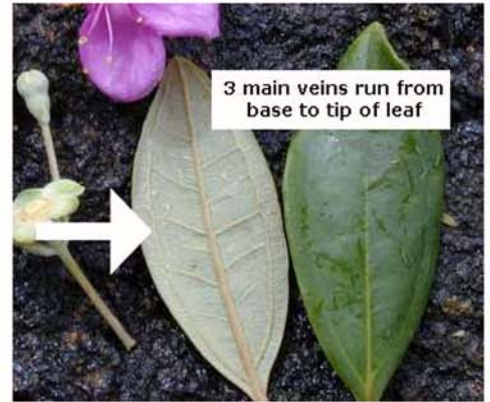
Leaves- Opposite, oval leaves up to 8 cm (3 in); glossy green above, densely hairy below; 3 prominent veins



Flower is 1 in across



Downy rose myrtle as seen from a roadside in Hilo, Hawaii



3 main veins run from the base to the tip of the leaf

Don't mistake downy rose myrtle for these look-alikes:



Pineapple guava (*Acca sellowiana*)

Pineapple guava (*Acca sellowiana*) is another shrubby, multistemmed, small tree that is grown ornamentally in Hawaii. This plant also has leaves that are glossy green above and hairy below, but is missing the 3 prominent veins found on downy rose myrtle leaves.